

ASHTEAD TENNIS PLAYERS CLUB

Spring Newsletter

March 2011



Throughout the Middle East and North Africa, governments are tottering, and tyrants are being overthrown by popular insurrection.

But here in Ashtead, we do things differently. On 3rd March 2011, your tennis club committee was elected to another term of office, without the use of ballot rigging, tear gas, or water cannon.

This leaves the way clear for another season of club sessions, tournaments and matches – and there is more good news.....



For the coming year, there will be no increase in membership or coaching fees.

So please - grab your pen and cheque book while the banks remain solvent, and return the membership form and tournament entries (please also remember to include a stamped addressed envelope).

Calendar for the new season

The programme is enclosed, and all the familiar landmarks are there to guide us through the year.

Martin has returned from the orient, filled with peaceful karma - ideally disposed to take up the role of club tournament organiser and referee, which was announced earlier. Finals weekend is scheduled for 3rd – 4th September, which has been chosen to (we hope) avoid clashes with holidays, rival sporting events, royal weddings, etc.

Travel section

Another of our seasoned travellers is David Phillips who, when not playing tennis, is President of the Royal Society of Chemistry (*and* when he is playing, come to think of it).

In recognition of this, David has been awarded one of the highest honours the nation can bestow – an invitation to be the guest on Desert Island Discs.



The recording has been made, and is due to be broadcast in the next series, so stay tuned to Radio 4.

I wonder what his luxury will be. My favourite from past editions was the Bishop of London, who chose a trombone.

Team news

Meanwhile back on court, our teams have achieved fine results.

At the AGM, magnificent trophies were presented to the gentlemens team, who were convincing winners of division 5 of the Dorking and Leatherhead League (Simon Dean, Alex Fennemore, Ben Lerpiniere, Roger Parker).

And there were trophies for the mixed team who were division 3 runners-up: Helen Abbott, Simon Dean, Dianne Chivers, Roger Parker.

Congratulations to them all.

The winter schedule was hampered by the severe weather, and a plague of injuries that has afflicted the ladies team.

Despite that, the ladies have played all their five matches, with only one loss - which is a very creditable result, whilst the gentlemen have succumbed only to Raynes Park.

Lease and leylandii

We have continued our discussions with Mole Valley on two items –

Agreement on our lease renewal has been reached, subject to final documentation, which is being drafted. Many thanks to our negotiating team of Roger, Dianne, and Kate for all the work they have put into this.

On the horticultural front, the leylandii along the back of the courts have also featured in conversations with the council - and between ourselves. The council suggested that we might take over their maintenance, but Roger volleyed that idea out of the recreation ground.

Then there is the question of height (of the leylandii that is, not Roger). If they grow too tall, they screen the sun from the courts, which become frosty and hazardous for the Sunday morning players in winter.

But too short, and they will not hide the towers, and trampoline users leaping into orbit from the new play area.



For a moment, the AGM resembled the old Bruce Forsythe game show Play Your Cards Right, with cries of “higher, higher” “lower, lower” from the audience.

No doubt, as with Brucie, there will be a happy ending.

Junior tennis

The programme of junior activities continues to flourish, with coaching and club sessions balanced by fish and chips and pizza evenings, all of which attract energetic support and participation.



In addition to the club tournament, juniors have been applying for external championships – the Powder Byrne, the Audrey Hughes tournament, and the splendidly named Tennis Goat.

Congratulations to them, and our continuing thanks to the Hammonds – Janice, Les, and Andy, for presiding over these ventures.

Wimbledon and British Tennis

The customary ballot form for Wimbledon tickets is enclosed.

Also customary is our appeal for everyone to join British Tennis, as our allocation of tickets depends on how many of our players have done so.

For those who haven't, a British Tennis membership form is enclosed, with an eloquent letter of endorsement from Les.

The free offer applies, as our club is registered under the Places to Play scheme.

Or, there is a website - <http://www.lta.org.uk/Members/Join/>

Locked out

A new combination lock has been fitted to the clubhouse door, as the old one failed several times, leaving players shivering and frustrated on the veranda.

Happily Brian's talents as a safebreaker came to the rescue, as he revealed an astonishing talent for dismantling the lock, and gaining entry.

He could probably do the same to the Bank of England, which is no bad thing, as Brian is also club treasurer.



Summer time

The clocks go forward on 27th March, after which the starting time for Saturday afternoon club sessions moves to 2.00pm.

See you there!

